

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 DEAE-00 SNM-02
TRSE-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 MCT-01
/072 W

-----081829 270317Z /61

O 270201Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9738

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PINS BF US

SUBJECT: CIVIL DISTURBANCE AUTEC ANDROS

1. AT APPROXIMATELY NOON FIRDAY AUGUST 16, AUTEC INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES, IN COURSE OF A ROUTINE DRUG INTERDICTION, APPREHENDED U.S. CIVILIAN AUTEC EMPLOYEE WHO UNDER QUESTIONING CLAIMED THAT HE WAS TO BE SOLD ALLEGED MARIJUANA BY TWO BAHAMIAN AUTEC EMPLOYEES. UPON DETERMINING THAT THERE WAS A POTENTIAL FOR THE TRANSACTION ACTUALLY TO TAKE PLACE, AUTEC SECURITY ATTEMPTED TO NOTIFY THE LOCAL BAHAMIAN CONSTABLE IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT BE PRESENT AND WITNESS THE ILLEGAL TRANSACTION. THE TRANSFER OCCURRED HOWEVER PRIOR TO THE CONSTABLE'S ARRIVAL. ALL SUSPECTS WERE DETAINED AND WHILE TRANSFERRING THEM FROM THE SCENE OF THE TRANSFER TO SECURITY HEADQUARTERS TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE CONSTABLE THE TWO BAHAMIAN SUSPECTS FLED INTO THE BUSH. THE SUSPECTS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE.

2. SHORTLY THEREAFTER RUMORS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE IN FRESH CREEK, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ALLEGEDLY STARTED BY ANOTHER AUTEC BAHAMIAN EMPLOYEE TO EFFECT THAT THE BAHAMIAN SUSPECTS HAD BEEN BADLY BEATEN DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERROGATION
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AND WERE SOMEWHERE IN THE BUSH IN AN INJURED CONDITION. AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 P.M. SOME TWENTY OR MORE LOCALS, MOST OF WHOM CLAIMED TO BE RELATIVE OF THE TWO BAHAMIANS, GATHERED AT THE AUTEC MAIN GATE AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS. ATTEMPTS BY THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF AUTEC, THE ASSISTANT OFFICER IN CHARGE OF AUTEC AND THE LOCAL POLICE CONSTABLE FAILED TO APPEASE THEM. THE CROWD

CONTINUED TO GROW UNTIL ABOUT 8:00 P.M. WHEN ONE BAHAMIAN MALE APPROACHED THE GATE AND BEGAN TO VOICE THREATS ABOUT WHAT HE WOULD DO TO THE INTERROGATORS OF THE SUSPECTS AND TO "WHITE PEOPLE" ON THE BASE. HE, FOLLOWED BY FOUR OR FIVE OTHERS, PUSHED PAST THE SECURITY GUARD AND THE OFFICER IN CHARGE ONTO THE BASE.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OF THE AREA, DISTRICT COMMISSIONER K.E. TAYLOR, WAS OFF ANDROS VISITING HIS FAMILY IN NASSAU. IN HIS ABSENCE, OFFICER IN CHARGE AUTC TURNED TO THE LOCAL POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR ASSISTANCE. APPROXIMATELY SEVEN OF THESE LEADERS CAME TO THE BASE TO BE BRIEFED ON THE INCIDENT AND AFTER BEING ASSURED THAT NO PHYSICAL HARM HAD BEEN SUFFERED BY THE SUSPECTS IN THE COURSE OF THE APPREHENSION OR INTERROGATION THEY PROCEEDED TO ATTEMPT TO CALM THE CROWD.

4. AT 9:30 P.M. OFFICER IN CHARGE AUTC REPORTED TO EMBASSY THAT THE EFFORTS OF THESE COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN SUCCESSFUL AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. THE CROWD HAS CALMED DOWN CONSIDERABLY ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE GATE.

5. EMBASSY IS NOT PRESENTLY AWARE OF THE STATUS OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO STORMED THE GATE AND ARE PRESUMABLY STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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AT LARGE ON THE BASE.

6. EMBASSY IS PRESENTLY ARRANGING FOR THE NLO, ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR BAHAMIAN POLICE OFFICIAL FROM NASSAU, TO FLY TO ANDROS TONIGHT IN ORDER TO MONITOR SITUATION, AND MINEXTAFF HAS BEEN SO ADVISED. DEPT WILL BE ADVISED OF FUTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
TAYLOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: MARR, PINS, BF, US, AUTEC INTERNATIONAL
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